



Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Zoom remote participation

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ann LeRoy, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, John Pickle, Wendy Richter, Emily Sullivan, David White
Absent: Shirley Canniff, Teresa DeBenedictis

1. Review/approve Minutes of May 28, 2020

Minutes of the May 28 meeting were reviewed and approved by all members present.

2. OSC Administration/Communications

- a. The announcement for new OSC member remains on the Town website.
- b. Emily has updated the OSC web page (but forgot to tell us) and will check with the town webmaster about traffic data on the website.
- c. Brian reported that he has posted the updates he has received so far for the Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces story map.
- d. Wendy reported that she has been posting to the Arlington Open Spaces Facebook account and requested that members share more photos for her to use. Either email directly to Wendy or post on Google drive.
- e. Emily will follow up with a few members who have not completed their Ethics, Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest materials.

3. Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces

Ann reported that Take A Walk maps continue to be popular on the Land Trust site.

4. Picture Post

John sent Elisabeth information for updated signage on new installations of Picture Post. John can submit Picture Post material receipts for reimbursement to Emily along with W-9 tax form or submit them through Wendy (who has already submitted tax forms). Materials are tax exempt with the town exemption form.

5. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)

- a. The \$35,000 CPA grant for updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan was approved by Town Meeting in June. Emily sent drafts of RFP templates to all members to review and Ann will start a draft RFP for a consultant to produce the 2022-2029 OS& R Plan. Dept. of Planning & Community Development will review the RFP. The goal is to post the RFP by late September or early October 2020. The Revised Plan must be submitted to the state Division of Conservation Services by May 2022.
- b. Emily will send the link to the new, combined Google drive with information collected during an earlier effort to streamline a tracking system for OS projects. Committee members will have access to the Google drive using an

OS gmail account. Files are set up on the drive to store photos as well as documents. These project documents will be used during the production of the of the Open Space Plan. Wendy will review what is on the drive and suggest what might be done to enhance the files to aid the consultant with the OS plan.

6. Updates: CPA/CDBG projects

- a. The Reservoir project is currently waiting on NGrid to complete work on the pump house. The Res. beach will not be open this summer. For budgetary reasons the location of the pathway upgrade pilot project will be moved to an area closer to the beach and easier to access.
- b. Emily reported that Phase 3 design and planning continues for the Wellington Park project. A second online public meeting was held on June 10. The design has been approved by the Park and Rec Committee and will be presented at a Con Com permit hearing on 9/23.

7. Other News and Reports

- a. Full results of the Envision Arlington annual town survey have not been released yet. Results will be used to inform the revised Open Space Plan. Emily will ask Kelly Lynema for an update.
- b. The Sustainable Transportation Plan will be presented to the Select Board on 6/29 and could be relevant to the Open Space Plan. Signal installation changes at the Lake St and bike path crossing are underway.
- c. Relocation planning for the VA memorial at Broadway Plaza is on hold.
- d. Mugar/Thorndike Place: ZBA has not received all materials required from the developer of the property in the low-lying area along Route 2. A ZBA hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2020. The ZBA requested a letter from OSC similar to one we submitted in 2016, opposing development on this property for environmental reasons. Members present voted unanimously to send a revised letter. Ann will draft and circulate it for input. Jenny Raitt will be coordinating various town committee letters for submission by noon July 7.
- e. A new friendly 40B project at 1165R Mass Ave is being proposed for Mirak property that includes the Work Bar. It will be a combination of renovated mill buildings and new apartment buildings with 130 residential units, including 25% affordable rate units. The location is along a portion of Mill Brook that is currently channeled, with an opportunity to enhance the edge conditions with landscaping and increase visibility of the brook. There will be a review by the ZBA for rezoning from industrial to mixed use. The project will be presented to Select Board on 6/29.
- f. The AHS rebuild committee is seeking public input as it considers playing field surfaces. ConCom has requested letters of objection/support of grass v. artificial turf by the next ConCom meeting 7/9/2020.

Meeting adjourned before 9pm PM.

Next Meetings: 7/30 & 9/24

Note: Town Day was cancelled for September 2020 due to Covid-19.

Submitted by
Wendy Richter